

With such distinguished units as the 49th Armored Division, Texas Army National Guard, and the other National Guard combat units deployed to Bosnia in support of the NATO peacekeeping mission, we have met our obligation to our European allies while serving our national interest in maintaining calm and promoting democracy in this part of the world. We must continue our commitment to providing the necessary resources to ensure the continued readiness of the National Guard and Reserve in the future.

The National Guard and Reserve personnel at home and abroad play an instrumental role in the national security of the United States. I am honored to commemorate their efforts with this resolution.

TRIBUTE TO CARRIE SINKLER-PARKER

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 20, 2001

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a dear friend, Carrie Sinkler-Parker upon her appointment to the board of Friends of HelpAged—Ghana International.

Friends of HelpAged—Ghana is a member of HelpAged International, a nongovernmental association established in 1988. Their goal is to assist older persons who are poor, marginalized, or isolated with their daily needs. They seek to promote adequate health care treatment and medicinal availability in rural regions. They work to provide vital services to older persons without care, and enlist volunteers to visit with isolated persons in their homes.

Ms. Sinkler-Parker holds a Graduate Certificate in Gerontology and a Masters in Public Health from the University of South Carolina. Throughout the course of her career, Ms. Sinkler-Parker has focused on eliminating barriers to obtaining quality health care and on addressing social issues that significantly impact older persons. Ms. Sinkler-Parker has been very valuable to me and my staff and I am certain she will use her experiences, dedication, and knowledge to help shape our world views and understanding of the aging population.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in wishing Ms. Carrie Sinkler-Parker good luck and Godspeed in her new position and in honoring her for the incredible service she continues to provide to elderly citizens around the world.

INTRODUCTION OF THE WOMEN IMMIGRANTS SAFE HARBOR ACT

HON. SANDER M. LEVIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 20, 2001

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, today we join the world community in the first observance of "World Refugee Day." On this day we express solidarity and support for the world's refugees and recognize the contributions refugees

make to their newly adopted countries. Against this backdrop, I am pleased to join with my colleagues CONNIE MORELLA, ILLEANA ROS-LEHTINEN, and NANCY PELOSI in introducing the "Women Immigrants' Safe Harbor Act (WISH)." The WISH Act provides help to women and children who are focused to seek refuge not from an oppressive political regime, but from members of their own families. Victims of domestic violence, like victims of political oppression, are often forced to flee with little other than their children and the clothes on their backs. Battered immigrant women, who are often far from their families and have limited English skills, are particularly alone and vulnerable.

Public benefits have long been a key avenue of escape from family violence. Victims of abuse are generally economically and socially isolated. Many of them believe they cannot leave their abusers because doing so will expose them and their children to economic hardship—in fact, a recent study found that more than two-thirds of battered immigrant women still trapped in abusive relationships said lack of money was the biggest obstacle to leaving. Programs like Medicaid, Food Stamps, and Temporary Assistance to Needy Families help them care for their children until they can get back on their feet. These programs also expand the capacity of our nation's domestic violence shelters and safe houses by providing partial support to their residents.

The economic hardship is compounded because many abuse victims are initially unable to work because they must remain in hiding from their abusers. Congress specifically recognized this barrier in the 1996 welfare reform law, which provided states with a "family violence option" to exempt victims of domestic violence from work requirements. Somewhere between one-third and half of domestic abuse victims are harassed by their abusers while at work. For that reason, some of them have no choice but to avoid the workplace until the abuser is brought justice.

The WISH Act would restore access to critical public programs for a vulnerable group of battered women, many of whom have U.S. citizen children. It would also remove the threat of deportation for those who sought help to protect themselves and their children. Passing the WISH Act would provide these women with a safe harbor from the violence that plagues their families and the kind of fresh start the United States has always offered to refugees of all kinds. I hope my colleagues will join me in celebrating "World Refugee Day" and in supporting an escape route for battered women.

TRIBUTE TO GLORIA FELDT

HON. NITA M. LOWEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 20, 2001

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Gloria Feldt on five years of remarkable service as the president of the Planned Parenthood Federation of America, the world's largest and most trusted voluntary family planning organization.

Like me, most of my colleagues know Gloria very well. She is a knowledgeable and thoughtful leader who works closely with Members, and has repeatedly testified before Congress in the fight to ensure and protect the health of all women and their families. That is why People magazine called her "the voice of experience" and Vanity Fair named her one of "America's 200 Legends, Leaders, and Trailblazers."

Gloria's work deserves our honor and applause. Since becoming president in 1996, she has led Planned Parenthood Federation through a dramatic revitalization. Under Gloria's direction, the organization kicked off the Responsible Choices Action Agenda, a comprehensive advocacy and service campaign to prevent unintended pregnancy, improve the quality of reproductive health care, and ensure access to safe, legal abortion.

In addition, she has been the driving force behind dynamic public awareness campaigns, which have helped put the issue of insurance coverage for contraception on the map, and brought widespread attention to the need for responsible, medically accurate sexuality education in America's schools.

Gloria is a dedicated leader, an inexhaustible activist, and an inspiring role model for all women. We wish her many more successful years as she continues to advocate for women's health and women's rights.

THANKS, TONY ARMSTRONG, FOR A HEALTHY FUTURE

HON. JAMES A. BARCIA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 20, 2001

Mr. BARCIA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my close friend, Anthony W. Armstrong, for a truly outstanding and highly commendable tenure as President and Chief Executive Officer of Bay Health in Bay City, Michigan. Tony has held key leadership positions with Bay Health since 1985 and has been a major force in making it one of the premier medical facilities in the region.

After the merger of four hospitals in the 1970s and 1980s, Bay Health became the pre-eminent full-service medical facility for Bay County and many surrounding communities. Since first joining Bay Health, Tony's guiding hand has continued to shepherd vital expansions in widening the scope of medical services offered to the greater community. In the process, he also has been resolute and careful in those efforts never to sacrifice the quality of care provided to patients.

Today, Tony Armstrong and the dedicated professionals who make up Bay Health can be proud of their great success in providing the best and most affordable health care possible. Organizations such as Bay Health depend upon the direction, talent and dedication of those at the helm and Tony's lead-by-example approach has put Bay Health on the right path for a hale and hearty future.

In addition to Tony's significant successes in health care, it is also noteworthy to mention that his contributions to the whole community have gone far beyond his work-related duties.